

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EINV, ELAB, DR

SUBJECT:"NEW YORK TIMES" ARTICLE ON NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
CHURCHES CHARGES AGAINST GULF AND WESTERN

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE IN "NEW YORK TIMES" FINANCIAL
SECTION, SEPTEMBER 15 (PG. 59) ENTITLED "TWO DOMINICANS
CHARGE G. AND W. 'BUSTED' A UNION AND PAY IS SUBSTANDARD."

"TWO DOMINICAN LABOR LEADERS, ONE OF THEM NOW A PENTE-
COSTAL MINISTER, (TEXT GARBLED IN NEWSPAPER) GULF AND
WESTERN SUGAR PRODUCING SUBSIDIARY IN THE DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC AS A UNION-BUSTING OCTOPUS THAT PAID SUB-
STANDARD WAGES.

THE ASSERTIONS CAME AT AN "INQUIRY" INTO G. AND W.'S
OPERATIONS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HELD BY THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AT ITS HEADQUARTERS AT 475 RIVERSIDE
DRIVE.

ROBERT A. AMEN, G. AND W.'S VICE PRESIDENT FOR CORPORATE
COMMUNICATIONS DISMISSED THE ASSERTIONS AS HAVING ALL
"BEEN HEARD BEFORE."

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THE TWO LABOR LEADERS--FRANCIS ANTONIO SANTOS, SECRETARY

GENERAL OF THE CONFEDERACION GENERAL DE TRABAJADORES,
AND THE REV. DANIEL PORTES, FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL
OF SINOMAPE, WHICH REPRESENTS HEAVY MACHINERY WORKERS--
ALSO CONTENDED THAT THE G. AND W. SUBSIDIARY HAD BEEN
PAYING OFF MEMBERS OF THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT.

MR. AMEN, REACHED BY TELEPHONE AFTER THE MEETING, CITED IN
G. AND W.'S DEFENSE A LETTER WRITTEN ALMOST THREE YEARS
AGO BY ROBERT A. HURWITCH, THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR.

IT GAVE THE COMPANY HIGH MARKS FOR ITS PAY SCALES,
CHARACTERIZED ITS LABOR ATTITUDES AS GENERALLY ENLIGHTENED,
AND SAID THE COMPANY HAD ALWAYS ADOPTED A HANDS-OFF
NEUTRALITY TOWARD POLITICS.

G. AND W.'S SUGAR AND OTHER FOOD OPERATIONS IN THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC GENERATED ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF THE
CONGLOMERATE'S OPERATING INCOME LAST YEAR AND MAKE UP
ONE OF THE MOST PROFITABLE DIVISIONS IN THE COMPANY'S
CONSOLIDATED INCOME SHEET.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND G. AND W. HAVE BEEN
AT LOGGERHEADS OVER THE QUALITY OF THE COMPANY'S SOCIAL
BEHAVIOR IN THE REPUBLIC SINCE LAST YEAR." ROBINSON

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